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July 3, 1958

Dr. Paul W. Hodge
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Hodge:

I very much enjoyed the paper given here by Rinehart and yourself on the collection of extraterrestrial particles. May I ask you the favor of sending me reprints of your articles on this subject as they appear?

I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to talk to you at the meeting: one wild thought occurred to me. In the light of cosmic abundances of the elements, many interstellar (cometoidal) particles may consist of organic molecules (C, H, O, N) which might be quite soluble in the acetone used to dissolve the membrane filters. If this is so, you might inadvertently be throwing away the layer part of this kind of infall! Unfortunately, the possible solubilities of the material might be very similar to that of the nitrocellulose membrane, and it may be a difficult technical problem to collect such particles.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

CC: Dr. Hemenway
JL/jp

HODGE, P.W.